



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hearing scheduled Nov. 28 on proposed rules for high-cost special education grant program

MADISON—The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will conduct a hearing Nov. 28 at the agency headquarters in Madison to take public testimony on proposed rules related to the operation of a grant program for high-cost special education. The hearing will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. in room 041 of the GEF 3 Building, 125 South Webster Street, Madison.

The new \$3.5 million grant program, which was included in the state's 2005-07 budget, was the result of State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster's *Keeping the Promise* initiative. In her September 2003 State of Education address, Burmaster designated \$1.5 million in federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) discretionary funding to reimburse Wisconsin schools for services to children with severe disabilities. School districts throughout the state had identified these un-reimbursed high costs as a priority issue for a number of years.

Similar to the *Keeping the Promise* initiative, the grant program will provide funds to school boards, boards of control of cooperative educational service agencies, county children with disabilities education boards, or operators of charter schools established under s.118.40(2r), Wis. Stats., for non-administrative costs for providing special education and related services to high-cost students in the previous school year. Those costs, which include nursing services, assistive technology, and other expenses, must exceed \$30,000 after federal IDEA, special education categorical aid, and federal Medicaid are deducted. Under the proposed rules, reimbursement will be calculated at 90 percent of the amount that exceeds \$30,000. If funds are insufficient for all eligible applicants, the proposed rules allow the department to prorate grants.

The hearing site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. A copy of the administrative rules and fiscal estimate are available at < <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pb/rulespg.html> >. Copies of these

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materials also are available by sending an e-mail request to < lori.slauson@dpi.state.wi.us > or by writing to Lori Slauson, administrative rules and federal grants coordinator, DPI, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841.

Written comments on the proposed rules may be submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail to the addresses above. Written comments are due no later than Dec. 4 and will be given the same consideration as testimony presented at the hearing.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at < http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006_154.pdf >.